



Approved (3/7/18)

**SerVermont Commission Meeting
4 December 2017**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Oak Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex

Members in Attendance: Betsy Ward, Peter Hayward, Nicole Whalen, Dan Noyes, Bob McCabe, Doug Kievit-Kylar

Members in Attendance via Phone: Guy Isabelle, Christy Gallese, Susan Cheesman

Staff in Attendance: Philip Kolling, Sharon Hearne, Robyn Baylor

9:00 am Welcome, Introductions

Phil welcomed everyone, lead round-table introductions, and noted that the group lacked a quorum (but hoped others would join us via phone).

9:10 am Public Comment Period

None noted.

9:15 am Approval of Minutes

Discussion and approval of October 2017 Meeting Minutes was forestalled until a quorum could be achieved.

9:20 am New Data

Phil began the presentation of new data by looking at current year enrollment (as of 11/22/2017). The following tables reflect both the current situation and the situation this same month a year ago:

October 2016 – PY 2016-17

October 2017 – PY 2017-18

| | Slot Awd. | Slots Fill | % |
|------|-----------|------------|------|
| VHCB | 36 | 21 | 58% |
| LEAP | 30 | 10 | 33% |
| VYDC | 27 | 12 | 44% |
| CEDO | 10 | 0 | 0% |
| ECO | 24 | 24 | 100% |
| VHEC | 50 | 0 | 0% |
| VYCC | 35 | 0 | 0% |

| | Slot Awd. | Slots Fill | % |
|----------|-----------|------------|-----|
| VHCB | 36 | 25 | 69% |
| LEAP | 36 | 9 | 25% |
| VYDC | 44 | 15 | 34% |
| CEDO | 20 | 0 | 0% |
| ECO | 24 | 23 | 96% |
| ReSource | 31 | 6 | 19% |
| VYCC | 40 | 0 | 0% |

Phil noted that programs continue to enroll members and acknowledged that enrollment has been difficult. However, those enrolling are clear in their desire to serve (with passion). Several CEDO full-time positions are being transferred to part-time positions.

With regard to recently released Education Award Data it is interesting to note that nearly \$17M in payments was made to Vermont institutions of higher learning by CNCS. The breakdown of total payments is as follows:

| | Slot Awd. | Slots Fill | % |
|----------|-----------|------------|------|
| VHCB | 36 | 29 | 81% |
| LEAP | 36 | 9 | 25% |
| VYDC | 44 | 20 | 45% |
| CEDO | 20 | 4 | 20% |
| ECO | 24 | 24 | 100% |
| ReSource | 32 | 12 | 38% |
| VYCC | 40 | 0 | 0% |

| State | All Payments | Education Payments | Loan Payments | All Individuals | Individuals (Education) | Individuals (Loan) |
|---------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Vermont | \$16,800,000 | \$8,500,000 | \$8,300,000 | 4,600 | 2,600 | 2,200 |

| INSTITUTION | | TOTAL PAYMENTS |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT | \$1,950,272.83 |
| 2 | SIT GRADUATE INSTITUTE | \$1,272,682.84 |
| 3 | COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF VERMONT | \$899,869.06 |
| 4 | MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE | \$747,070.75 |
| 5 | STERLING COLLEGE | \$518,200.36 |
| 30 | VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORP | \$7,723,172.56 |

Peter stressed that when speaking with legislators it can be helpful in answering the question, "What does national service bring to Vermont besides community service?" He also suggested that, although it may already be in the Federal tax bill (John Lewis), we may want to seek exemption of education awards from State taxation.

Sharon offered an update on AmeriCorps site visits. She has conducted 6 out of 8 for 2017...and is finding fewer issues that require significant attention. VHCB and LEAP have yet to be visited. Monthly reports and status reports have done much to provide a heads-up on issues requiring attention.

10:00 am AmeriCorps Application Review

Phil set the stage for discussion of the AmeriCorps Applications to be reviewed by offering the following:

- RFP & NOFO – released in August
- Letter of Intent Deadline – October 13
- Applications Due – November 17
- SerVermont Review – November 20 – Dec. 1
- Commissioner Approval – **Dec. 4**
- Clarification to Applicants – Dec. 8
- Final application due to SerVermont – Jan. 5, 2018
- **SerVermont submission to CNCS – Jan. 17, 2018**

Phil noted to commissioners that...

- Applications sent to DC in January
- Competitive Review
- Competitive Notification in May
- Informed by results of competition, commission awards formula dollars.
- Final decisions submitted in late May or June to CNCS
- Do not know what else is being submitted by other states
- Have had non-CNCS priority applications competitively funded
- Have had surprises (good and bad) in competition.
- If something could conceivably be funded, no reason not to submit it.

In summary, Phil reminded commissioners that their task was to decide...

- What do we send to DC?
- How do we rank them?
 - Must rank top 5
 - May rank rest, or mark as "Not Ranked"

Commissioners, having already reviewed the applications, were considering the following programs:

Continuations – NO CHANGES

Vermont Youth Development Corps (yr. 2 of 3)
 Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (yr. 2 of 3)

Recompete – New 3 yr. Competitive Cycle

VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation
 VT Housing and Conservation Board (fixed)

New – Previously funded (comp. w/in 5 yrs.)

Burlington CEDO

New – “New” (not comp. w/in 5 yrs.)

ReSource
 Lyndon State College

New New (has never operated before)

VT Center for Crime Victim Services

Phil reviewed the requests for funding using the following table:

| | | \$ CNCS | MSY | Slots | Cost / MSY |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------|------------------|
| Comp. Continuation | VYDC | \$ 357,637 | 28.63 | 44 | \$ 12,492 |
| | VYCC | \$ 214,175 | 17.37 | 40 | \$ 12,330 |
| Comp. Recompete | VHCB (Fixed Amount) | \$ 393,588 | 30.29 | 34 | \$ 12,994 |
| | ECO | \$ 344,576 | 24 | 24 | \$ 14,357 |
| New | LEAP (New Formula) | \$ 257,693 | 17.79 | 35 | \$ 14,485 |
| | CEDO (New Previously Funded) | \$ 211,606 | 16.06 | 26 | \$ 13,176 |
| | VCCVS (New New) | \$ 223,869 | 15 | 18 | \$ 14,925 |
| | ReSource (New Formula) | \$ 220,443 | 15.42 | 41 | \$ 14,296 |
| | TOTAL | \$ 2,223,587 | 164.56 | 262 | \$ 13,632 |

And described available funding using the following table:

| Funds Available | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|--|
| CONTINUATION funds | \$ 571,812 | | |
| Other Requests | \$ 1,651,775 | | |
| FORM Grant | \$ 600,000 | | |
| ABOVE Available | \$ 1,051,775 | This is the request above available funds | |
| ABOVE Available w/ VHCB, ECO Recom. | \$ 313,611 | This is how much "more" we want beyond having recompetes funded | |

NOTE: Assumes Level Federal Funding and Small State Minimum

Phil summarized member requests as follows:

- 262 member positions: Up 31 positions
- 164.56 Member Service Years: Up 17.56 MSY

2017-18

- 231 member positions
- 147 Member Service Years

Phil reviewed past enrollment performance of the programs - noting exceptional results for this past year!

| | Slot Awd. | Slots Fill | % |
|------|-----------|------------|------|
| VHCB | 41 | 41 | 100% |
| LEAP | 40 | 38 | 95% |
| VYDC | 44 | 42 | 95% |
| CEDO | 10 | 9 | 90% |
| ECO | 24 | 24 | 100% |
| VHEC | 18 | 17 | 94% |
| VYCC | 36 | 36 | 100% |

| Slot Retention | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| VHCB | 89% | 89% | 94% | 85% | 83% | 94% | 93% |
| LEAP | 97% | 96% | 96% | 93% | 88% | 85% | 100% |
| VYDC | 93% | 81% | 80% | 86% | 97% | 88% | 91% |
| CEDO | 70% | 82% | 69% | 90% | 93% | 86% | 100% |
| ECO | | | | | | 90% | 92% |
| VHEC | | | | | | | 100% |
| VYCC | | | | | | | 100% |
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |

In discussion Guy noted as being of concern to him the fact that CEDO was having difficulty in recruiting members. Commissioners decided to tackle the low-hanging fruit (so to speak) first by beginning with program continuations:

Continuations – NO CHANGES

Vermont Youth Development Corps (yr. 2 of 3)

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (yr. 2 of 3)

Guy asked if staff members had any suggestions regarding the two programs. Phil offered that he would support submittal of applications by both the VYDC and VYCC.

The same was true for the two recompetes:

Recompete – New 3 yr. Competitive Cycle

VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation

VT Housing and Conservation Board (fixed)

Commissioners were comfortable with these suggestions but were pushed to remember that the submittals would still require ranking (at least for the top five). Phil and Sharon still needed to review and update program budgets. It was noted that both ECO and Restore/corps applications have logic models that are too long. Dan mentioned that ECO was focused on a mission that coincided closely with state priorities and that the Governor will likely endorse an award being given to this program. Betsy noted that VHCB must assert evidence for selection of and the strength of its interventions. Peter wanted to see the ECO proposal strengthened before sending to DC (no evidence and proof that it cultivates a culture that values learning). Phil shared with the group that strategically, it might be considered that opioid addiction in Vermont is the strongest issue for CNCS (while Bob noted that the environment is NOT a big issue in DC right now). Guy noted that there are national directs operating in Vermont dealing with the epidemic (DREAM, CORE Network, etc.).

In the discussion leading to a ranking of applications everyone was in agreement that staff would work with programs to improve their applications in light of the review and update as necessary before submittal. Phil stated that he would provide feedback to applicants regarding revisions. The group agreed that all program applications would be submitted...if concerns were satisfactorily addressed.

Those in attendance offered the following consensus ranking to be submitted along with the applications:

- | | |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1. VYDC | 5. LEAP |
| 2. ECO | 6. CEDO |
| 3. VHCB | 7. ReSource |
| 4. VYCC | 8. VCVS (RestoreCorps) |

Phil and those commissioners in attendance offered KUDOS to Robyn for her planning and execution of the Fall Conference recently held at the Stoweflake Inn. The story slam was a definite highlight of the event! AMAZING!!!!

Robyn offered a brief VISTA update noting that no one has left service yet and that three new positions have been filled.

Phil provided an update on the CNCS/OIG Audit by offering the following:

- Audit Delayed
- Received a message from the OIG liaison that the Assistant Inspector General is talking to auditors today about how to move forward.
- Probably no audit the week of December 11.

- Expect confirmation soon.

Regarding what we know about the Federal budget...

- CR expires Dec. 8
- Talks about a 2 week extension – through Dec. 22
- “No appetite” for a shutdown
- Largest impact is on VISTA members
- Depending on length, reimbursements from CNCS could be impacted

Phil provided a summary of where things now stand for a January celebration at the State House of the Governor's Service Awards. The following numbers of nominations have been received...and will be reviewed for consideration:

Adult – 1
AmeriCorps State – 3
AmeriCorps VISTA – 3
Family – 1
RSVP – 1
Senior Companions – 1
Youth – 5 (or one group)

Phil offered the following tentative Commission Meeting Schedule:

- January, 19 or 25– Annual Meeting
 - Can be before or after grant submission on Jan. 17 depending upon results of December Meeting
- May 17 formula funding decisions.
 - May 15 is CNCS notification
 - Second meeting has been April, can conflict with April school break. Have also needed a May “special” meeting for funding.
- September 21 after symposium
- December 6 for application review meeting
 - Earlier in December

11:50 am Upcoming Events

- Audit – January?
- Site Visits – November and December
- Governor’s Service Awards - January?
- SerVermont Annual Meeting – January 11, 18, or 25?
- Commissioner Orientation – January or February

12:00 pm Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,



Doug Kievit-Kylar
Secretary